



## D2: The Home—Proverbs 14:1—Building Up or Tearing Down?

"The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands." Proverbs 14:1

### Introduction: Understanding Proverbs

- 1 Ki 3:5-13; 4:29-32—God gives Solomon wisdom
- 1 Cr 1:18-31, esp. 18, 23-24, 30—30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...
- Prov 16:7—e.g. of what a proverb is
- Prov 1:7—The *fear of the LORD* is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- Prov 31:30—Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who *fears the LORD*, she shall be praised.
- Prov 9:10—The *fear of the LORD* is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- Prov 15:33—The *fear of the LORD* is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility.

### I. Women in Proverbs

#### A. The one who is "wise" in Proverbs

good women:

- Prov 11:16a—A *gracious* woman attains honor...
- Prov 19:14b—...a *prudent* wife is from the LORD.
- Prov 31:10, 30—An *excellent* wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. ... [30] Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who *fears the LORD*, she shall be praised.

one who is wise:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- Prov 8:33—*Heed instruction* and be wise, *And do not neglect it.*
- Prov 9:8—Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, *Reprove a wise man and he will love you.*
- Prov 10:8—*The wise of heart will receive commands*, But a babbling fool will be ruined.
- Prov 15:31—*He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof Will dwell among the wise.*
- Prov 19:20—*Listen to counsel and accept discipline*, That you may be wise the rest of your days.
- Prov 9:9—*Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser*, Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.
- Prov 8:34—Blessed is the man who *listens to me (wisdom)*, *Watching* daily at my gates, *Waiting* at my doorposts.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- Prov 16:23—*The heart of the wise instructs his mouth* and adds persuasiveness to his lips.
- Luk 6:45—*The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good*; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for *his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.*
- Prov 10:19— When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, *But he who restrains his lips is wise.*
- Prov 12:18—There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, *But the tongue of the wise brings healing.*
- Prov 13:14— The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn aside from the snares of death.
- Prov 14:3—In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, *But the lips of the wise will protect them.*
- Prov 15:2—*The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable*, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.
- Prov 15:7—*The lips of the wise spread knowledge*, But the hearts of fools are not so.
- Prov 25:12—Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is *a wise reprover* to a listening ear.



## B. foolish/bad women in Proverbs

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- Prov 2:16-17—To deliver you from the strange woman, From the *adulteress* who flatters with her words; That leaves the companion of her youth And forgets the covenant of her God...
- Prov 5:3-6—For the lips of an *adulteress* drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; 4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death, Her steps take hold of Sheol. 6 She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it.
- Prov 6:24-26—To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the *adulteress*. 25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her capture you with her eyelids. 26 For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, And an *adulteress* hunts for the precious life.
- Prov 7:5, 10-21—That they may keep you from an *adulteress*, From the foreigner who flatters with her words. ... 10 And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. 11 She is boisterous and rebellious, Her feet do not remain at home; 12 She is now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner. 13 So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him: 14 "I was due to offer peace offerings; Today I have paid my vows. 15 "Therefore I have come out to meet you, To seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you. 16 "I have spread my couch with coverings, With colored linens of Egypt. 17 "I have sprinkled my bed With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. 18 "Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses. 19 "For my husband is not at home, He has gone on a long journey; 20 He has taken a bag of money with him, At the full moon he will come home." 21 With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him.
- Prov 22:14—The mouth of an *adulteress* is a deep pit; He who is cursed of the LORD will fall into it.
- Prov 23:27-28—For a *harlot* is a deep pit And an adulterous woman is a narrow well. 28 Surely she lurks as a robber, And increases the faithless among men.
- Prov 30:20—This is the way of an *adulterous* woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wrong."

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- Prov 19:13—A foolish son is destruction to his father, And the *contentions* of a wife are a constant dripping.
- Prov 21:9, 19—It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a house shared with a *contentious* woman. ... 19 It is better to live in a desert land Than with a *contentious and vexing* woman.
- Prov 25:24—It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a house shared with a *contentious* woman.
- Prov 27:15-16—A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a *contentious* woman are alike; 16 He who would restrain her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.



**SUMMARY—WISE AND FOOLISH WOMEN IN PROVERBS:**

- Wise women are teachable, and they speak carefully.
- Women are warned against being immoral or contentious.

## II. BUILDING VS. TEARING DOWN IN PROVERBS

### A. Building

- Prov 24:3—By *wisdom* a house is *built*, And by understanding it is established...
- Prov 9:1—*Wisdom* has *built* her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars...

### B. Tearing Down

- Prov 11:11—By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, But by the *mouth* of the wicked it is *torn down*.
- Prov 24:30-31—I passed by the field of the *sluggard* And by the vineyard of the man lacking sense, And behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; Its surface was covered with nettles, And its stone wall was *broken down*.

**SUMMARY—BUILDING AND TEARING DOWN IN PROVERBS:**

- Wisdom builds.
- A wicked mouth and idleness tear down.

### III. HOUSES IN PROVERBS

#### A. Wise Houses

- Prov 9:1-6— Wisdom has *built her house*, She has hewn out her seven pillars; 2 She has *prepared her food*, she has mixed her wine; She has also *set her table*; 3 She has sent out her maidens, she calls From the tops of the heights of the city: 4 "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks understanding she says, 5 "Come, eat of my food And drink of the wine I have mixed. 6 " Forsake your folly and live, *And proceed in the way of understanding.*"
- Prov 31:10, 15, 21, 27—An *excellent wife*, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. . . . 15 She rises also while it is still night And *gives food to her household* And portions to her maidens. . . . 21 She is *not afraid of the snow for her household, For all her household are clothed* with scarlet. . . . 27 *She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.*

#### B. Foolish Houses

- Prov 2:16-18—To deliver you from the strange woman, From the *adulteress* who flatters with her words; 17 That leaves the companion of her youth And forgets the covenant of her God; 18 For her *house sinks down to death* And her tracks lead to the dead. . .
- Prov 7:10-11—And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a *harlot* and cunning of heart. 11 She is boisterous and rebellious, *Her feet do not remain at home*. . .
- Prov 9:13-18—The *woman of folly* is boisterous, She is naive and knows nothing. 14 She *sits at the doorway of her house*, On a seat by the high places of the city, 15 *Calling to those who pass by*, Who are making their paths straight: 16 "Whoever is naive, let him turn in *here*," And to him who lacks understanding she says, 17 "Stolen water is sweet; And bread eaten in secret is pleasant." 18 But he does not know that *the dead are there*, That her guests are in the depths of Sheol.
- Prov 17:1—Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it Than a *house* full of feasting with *strife*.
- Prov 21:9—It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a *house* shared with a *contentious* woman.
- Prov 25:24—It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a *house* shared with a *contentious* woman.

#### SUMMARY—HOUSES IN PROVERBS:

- Homes are blessed by industrious women who care for the needs of their households and speak words of understanding.
- Homes are harmed by idleness, by indifference to the needs of others, by immorality, and by contentiousness.



#### IV. HANDS IN PROVERBS

- Prov 10:4—Poor is he who works with *a negligent hand*, But the *hand of the diligent* makes rich.
- Prov 6:9-11—How long will you lie down, *O sluggard*? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little *folding of the hands* to rest"-- 11 Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man.
- Prov 12:24—The *hand of the diligent* will rule, But the *slack hand* will be put to forced labor.
- Prov 19:24—The *sluggard buries his hand in the dish*, But will not even bring it back to his mouth.
- Prov 21:25—The desire of the *sluggard* puts him to death, For his *hands refuse to work*...
  
- Prov 13:11—Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, But the one who *gathers by labor (hand)* increases it.
- Prov 31:19-20—She *stretches out her hands* to the distaff, And her *hands grasp the spindle*. 20 She *extends her hand to the poor*, And she *stretches out her hands to the needy*.

#### SUMMARY—HANDS IN PROVERBS:

- Wise hands work and serve.
- Foolish hands don't.

#### V. WARNINGS FROM PROVERBS 14:1:

Proverbs warns against the devastating effects on the home by women who are...

1. sexually immoral
2. idle
3. contentious

#### REMEMBER THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL!

1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 1:8-9; Romans 8:1

#### VI. QUESTIONS TO GET AT THE HEART:

##### 1. **Sexual Immorality**—Where are your **affections**?

Do you desire what you shouldn't have? Are you content with what you do have?

- Mat 5:27-28



- Psa 73:25-28
- 1 Cr 10:31
- Eph 5:33
- 1Cr 6:18-20—Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

## 2. **Idleness**—Whom do you **serve**?

- Psa 127:2
- 1 Ti 6:17
- Col 3:22-24—Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

## 3. **Contentiousness**—Whom do you **trust**?

- Ex 17:1-7; Nu 20:1-13—Israel's contentions=testing God
  - wrong response to need
  - breeds other sin, e.g., grumbling, fear, accusations
  - fails to acknowledge what is true about God and His faithfulness
- Gen 2:20-24—Am I being helpful?...with WHAT I say, HOW I say it, to WHOM I say it?
- Prov 15:23, 28—Is this the RIGHT TIME to speak? Have I PONDERED my answer?

- Prov 31:12, 26—Are my words GOOD and BENEFICIAL? Will it bring harm? Is it wise? Is it kind? Does it promote understanding?
- Mat 5:23-24—Do I need to confess sin and seek forgiveness?
- Mat 7:3-5—Have I taken the log out of my own eye?
- 1 Co 13:4-7, esp. from v. 7—(Love) hopes all things...
- 1 Ti 1:15—It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

## **VII. CONCLUSION:**

A house is built by women who are...

1. pure
2. industrious
3. peaceable

**This is made possible by the grace of God and the richness of what Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection!**

